

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 01542 172323Z

64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02

/050 W

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P 172253Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9925

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 1542

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CS

SUBJECT: LIMON STRIKE INTO ITS SECOND DAY

REF: SAN JOSE 1533

1. DESPITE INTENSE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GOCR OFFICIALS AND LIMON STRIKE COMMITTEE SPOKESMEN, THE GENERAL STRIKE IN THE ATLANTIC PORT CITY CONTINUED INTO ITS SECOND DAY (APRIL 17).

2. THE GOCR'S MOVE TO SET UP POLICE FORCES AROUND THE RECOPE REFINERY (REFTTEL) WAS MET WITH BITTER PROTESTS BY THE LIMON STRIKE LEADERSHIP AND LATER IN THE DAY "THE ALLEGED MILITARY OCCUPATION" WAS WITHDRAWN. THE PLN-MOUTHPIECES EXCELSIOR AND LA HORA ON APRIL 17 PUBLISHED STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT ODUBER THAT HE WAS DECLARING LIMON AN EMERGENCY ZONE, NOT IN ORDER TO SEND "TROOPS" BUT IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE MEASURES NEEDED TO ANSWER THE LIMONENSES' DEMANDS AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE.

3. DESPITE THE TENSIONS IN THE STREETS OF LIMON AND THE
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PAGE 02 SAN JO 01542 172323Z

EARLY REJECTION OF THE HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT DELEGATION

(REFTEL), PROGRESS WAS REPORTEDLY MADE ON APRIL 16 IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. ACCORD WAS REPORTEDLY REACHED ON APPROXIMATELY HALF OF THE STRIKE COMMITTEE'S DEMANDS. HOWEVER, THE DEMANDS THAT WERE MET WERE THE EASIER ONES RELATING MORE TO SOCIAL SERVICES NEEDED IN LIMON. WHAT REMAINS TO BE NEGOTIATED TODAY ARE THE DEMANDS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES IN THE GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS WHICH AFFECT LIMON, PARTICULARLY JAPDEVA AND RECOPE.

4. EXCEPT FOR SOME OUTBURSTS OF VANDALISM, THE PRESS REPORTS THE CITY OF LIMON AS CALM.

TODMAN

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